



School of Human Evolution and Social Change

Archaeology Graduate Program Curriculum

The archaeology graduate program at ASU endeavors to provide students with 1) a breadth of background in archaeological and anthropological knowledge in order that as professionals they can converse with and appreciate the approaches and contributions of a diversity of colleagues, and 2) a depth of background in the region and topics in which the student plans to develop advanced competence. The breadth is provided largely through the curriculum outlined below, although field work in diverse regions of the world is also encouraged. Depth is provided principally through preparation for the doctoral exams, the dissertation proposal, dissertation research, and the writing of the dissertation. Our graduate program in archaeology in particular stresses comparative social analysis and expertise in quantitative methods.

Students generally work closely with faculty and are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities for archaeological research offered through faculty research programs, field schools, the Archaeological Research Institute, the Center for Bioarchaeological Research, and the Institute of Human Origins. Supporting these activities are ceramic, pollen, faunal, and general purpose laboratories, computer equipment, and computerized databases and extensive archaeological collections.

ASU has an active and interactive cohort of archaeology graduate students. During their graduate studies, these students have been extremely successful in publishing peer-reviewed articles, obtaining external funding from sources including the National Science Foundation and the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, and developing strong teaching records.

The curricular track in archaeology is comprised of SHESC-required courses, archaeology courses, and suggested courses in archaeology and related fields.

SHESC-Required Courses

- Scholarly Inquiry (ASB 540)
- A dissertation proposal writing course

Archaeology Courses

All students should have a broad training in archaeology. To accomplish this aim, students should take:

- Quantitative and Formal Methods in Archaeology (ASM 565)
- Small-scale Societies (ASB 542)
- A course on complex societies (see list below)
- A second analytical methods course (see list below)

Additional Courses

Students, in consultation with their committee, will choose additional courses that best fit their needs. In preparing their programs of study archaeology students are strongly recommended to take courses in the following areas:

- Archaeological theory (see list below)
- Geographical area course, including at least one within and one outside the student's primary research area. This recommendation acknowledges the differences in research issues and approaches across different geographic areas.
- A professionalism course

Students are also strongly advised to gain in-depth field work experience.

Complex Societies Courses

- Chiefdoms (ASB 549)
- Comparative Early Urbanism (ASB 591)
- Complex Societies (ASB 555)
- Near Eastern Complex Societies (ASB 591)
- Topics in Mesoamerican Archaeology (ASB 537)

Analytical Methods Courses

- Advanced bioarchaeology
- Archaeological ceramics (ASB 591)
- Geoarchaeology (ASB 548)
- Intrasite analysis in archaeology (ASB 568)
- Ethnoarchaeology (ASB 591)
- Human behavior through bone chemistry
- Quantitative and Formal Methods in Archaeology (ASM 565)
- Spatial technologies (ASB 591)
- Zooarchaeology and paleoecology (ASB 591)
- In addition, modeling, GIS, and Statistics courses are offered both in SHESC and other units on campus.

Theoretical Topics Courses

- Archaeological Perspectives on Landscapes (ASB 591)
- Archaeology of the Social Realm (ASB 560)
- Current Issues in Paleolithic Archaeology (ASB 546)
- Ecological Anthropology (ASB 530)
- Economic Archaeology (ASB 550)
- Economic Anthropology (ASB 591)
- Human Impacts on the Environment (ASB 591)
- Hunter-Gatherer Adaptations (ASB 563)
- Issues in Contemporary Social Theory (ASB 591)

- Issues in Old World Domestication Economies (ASB 547)
- Material Culture (ASB 525)
- Modern Human Origins (ASB 591)
- Mortuary Practices and Cultural Reconstruction (ASB 558)
- Political Anthropology (ASB 591)
- Prehistoric Diet (ASB 551)
- Scholarly Inquiry (ASB 540)
- Settlement Patterns (ASB 544)
- Small-scale Societies (ASB 542)
- Topics in Material Culture (ASB 591)